(b) whether Government propose to bridge the widening gap in power availability and demand in that region during the 8th Five Year Plan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. During the year 1994-95 the North-Eastern Region faced an energy shortage of 9.4 per cent as compared to All India shortage of 7.1 per cent.

(b) and (c) It is proposed to add 624.9 MW capacity in North-Eastern Region during the 8th Five Year Plan. Various other measures being taken to improve the availability of power in the North-Eastern Region included expediting commissioning of new generating units, implementation of better demand management and energy conservation measures, arrenging transfer of energy from surplus to deficit areas and promotion of private sector investment in power sector etc.

Private participation in Power Projects

3450. SHIR RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to invite private participation in powexr projects in the country;

(b) whether Govrenment have floated global tenders for such participation, if so, the details of the projects and the private parties involved therein;

(c) whether Government have extended preferential treatment to foreign parties investing in power projects by offering guarantees and counter guarantees on risk capital, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government propose to extend identical treatment to domestic power producing units including those in public sector, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URBILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Entrusting power projects to private promoters is within the purview of the State Government and as such no global tenders need to be invited by the Government of India for this purpose.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The policy to encourage greater private sector participation in the power sector is equally applicable to Indian as well as foreign companies and private as well as public sector companies.

Gas based power projects by NTPC in Gujarat

3451. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation propose to set-up gas-based power projects in Gujarat during 1994-95;

(b) if so, what are the locations of these projects;

(c) whether the leading points have been determined by Government;

(d) what is the source of fuel for these plants; and

(e) whether Government have worked out the estimated per unit cost of power to be generated through these plants if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is implementing Jhanor-Gandhar Gas Power Project (657 MW) near Nabipur in Bharuch district of Gujarat. The third (last) gas turbine unit (131 MW) was commissioned in May, 1994. The steam turbine unit (255 MW) is schedulel to be commissioned in September, 1995.